

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Transmitted via Email

January 18, 2008

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-8-5

SUBJECT: LTP – EQIP SCORING & RANKING PERIOD

Purpose. To provide a second scoring period for 2008 EQIP.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2008.

November 30, 2007, was the initial cut-off for accepting EQIP applications to be scored and ranked for potential funding. **Offices should now proceed with scoring and ranking all EQIP applications on hand as of December 31, 2007.**

Ranking and subsequent selection of applications to be funded should include any unfunded applications carried over from the first scoring period. Each ASTC (FO) has been provided additional funds to distribute as they prioritize to meet area workloads and goals. As funds allow, offices may proceed to select, approve, and sign priority contracts in ranked order from this second scoring period.

At this time, it is not certain if enough funds will be available for any additional scoring periods. However, as per EQIP policy (440-CPM-515.80), applications should always be accepted on a continuing basis throughout the year and if funds are available, additional scoring periods will be announced in the near future.

Special emphasis funds for American Indian, New Immigrant Farmer, and Beginning Farmer funds remain available to all offices. Drought Assistance, Nutrient Management Initiative and PL-566 Watershed special initiatives are available to designated counties. Follow your ASTC (FO)'s policy regarding these applications.

Applications scoring 0 points in the national issues of the ranking tool are low priority applications and not eligible for funding.

Questions should be directed to your Assistant State Conservationist (FO) or through the Area to Tim Koehler, Assistant State Conservationist.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: ASTC (FO)
DC
ARC
Program Specialists
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